



The daughter of Malcolm X had a lot to say about education.
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Read the views of two Meter editors about Jamie Foxx's special on NBC.
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See what new football recruits have Coach Webster all smiles.
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Administrative shifts on the horizon

By Marshall A. Latimore and
Brian C. Browley
Campus News Writers

At least six top administrative positions are expected to be created or filled by the end of the 2005-06 fiscal year, June 30, according to TSU President Melvin N. Johnson.

In a Feb. 3 interview with *The Meter*,

Johnson said three new administrative positions will be created, the highest being a new provost/executive vice president. He said the provost will serve as the "chief operating officer," help with the day-to-day affairs, and act as chief academic officer of the university.

"[The provost] will be a first among equals," Johnson said. "Of all the [vice presidents], this is going to be the senior [vice president]."

Another new position will be an associate vice president of enrollment management, which will include the Office of Admissions, Office of Records, Financial Aid, and First-Year Student retention, according to Johnson.

Also there will be a special assistant for legal affairs position in the Office of the President, according to Hollis Price, director

See "Retirees" on page 7

AWC campus aims to future



IMAGE COURTESY OF MCNELLY, PIGOTT AND FOX PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM

TSU's Avon Williams campus is currently undergoing \$18.5 million worth of renovations. Above is an image of what the second level entrance will detail.

By Madelyn Ragland and
Shauntae White
Campus News Editor and
Campus News Writer

The current \$18.5 million renovation project on the TSU Avon Williams campus is building up steam toward its January 2007 expected completion.

The project is planned to aid the campus in supporting more programs and bringing in

more students, according to TSU officials.

The multi-million dollar makeover for the conversion of TSU's downtown campus will be funded by the Geier Consent Decree, and the university, according to Evelyn Nettles, associate vice president of the extended service and continuing education department.

In 2001, the Geier Consent Decree was a court-approved document stating that in five years, January 2006, the state of Tennessee had to provide African-Americans equal

See "Changes" on page 7

Outcry leads to reversal of new graduation policy

By Marshall A. Latimore
Campus News Writer

Last Monday, Jan. 30, an emergency senior class meeting in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center forum led to the overturning of a new graduation policy implemented by TSU President Melvin N. Johnson.

The policy, which cut the May commencement ceremonies from two to one and limited the number of guests for graduates, was sternly protested by students and was subsequently changed.

Nearly 200 students met for the emergency meeting to discuss the new graduation policy.

At the meeting John Cade, dean of admissions and records, distributed copies of the new policy, which limited the number of guests for each graduate to six, for the upcoming commencement. If graduates were to have more than six guests, they would be required to view the commencement ceremony via satellite in the Kean Hall gymnasium.

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Men's hoops: Feb. 4

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Austin Peay 70

Campus News

Shabazz: Teach our children our rich history

By Kirsten D. Watkins
A&E Editor

With the commencement of Black history month, Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X and author of *Growing Up X*, addressed the importance of education to TSU students on Thursday, Feb. 2 in the Thomas E. Poag auditorium.

Shabazz, the fifth speaker of the Student Development Symposium and Presentation series for the 2005-2006 academic year, stressed to the audience that education or the lack thereof will either propel or deny people's opportunity for growth. Additionally, Shabazz said that the limited sense of accomplishments as a people is due to the fact that "we are not validated throughout the educational experience."

"You too must insist that your education be both broad-based and anchored in facts," Shabazz said. "You cannot change the position of humanity without a properly diverse education. If it is not diverse, you will be ill-equipped."

"Before I learned about Dick, Jane and Spot, I learned about Marcus Garvey. Before I knew about the American Revolution, I was familiar with the revolution within the Haitian government."

Shabazz, one of six daughters of Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz, published her memoir *Growing Up X* in 2002. She received the 2002 bet.com Best Book List Award, the Essence Magazine No. 3



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Ilyasah Shabazz urged students to take advantage of education and be proud to be attending an HBCU such as TSU.

best seller, and the 2003 NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Non-Fiction Literary Work.

Also, as the team leader for the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center at the Audubon, Shabazz is vehement about keeping her family's visions alive.

"My father hoisted all of humanity on his shoulders, asking nothing of himself or his family in return," Shabazz said.

She also shared that she was just two years of age when her father was assassinated and that much of what she learned of him was "by listening to my mother, my sisters, reading literature, and through the painful recollections of other people."

"Ms. Shabazz was awesome," said Ashley Goodman, a senior mass communications major from Memphis. "I believe that her message was timely. Not just because it's Black history month but because it is a message that our generation needs to hear."

Charging to the attentive audience, Shabazz advised students to be grateful for the opportunity to learn one's ancestry through a historical institution such as TSU. She also encouraged the youth generation to be more than that which we see, to not be reduced as a people by "the bling" or be fascinated about money as a validation of success. Shabazz declared her belief that "some of tomorrow's greatest leaders may even be in this room."

"The lecture was interesting," said Tony Morris, a sophomore business administration major from Washington.

Also during the lecture, which lasted about an hour, Shabazz also paid homage to Coretta Scott King, as she so affectionately called her "Auntie Coretta."

"She was very close to us. It was a painful loss but at the same time, it is a process of life that we must accept."

"You cannot change the position of humanity without a properly diverse education. If it is not diverse, you will be ill-equipped."

-Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X and author of *Growing Up X*, reflects on memories of her father growing up.

"I want to pay homage to my Auntie Coretta. When I think of Auntie Coretta and my mother, parallels easily come to mind. They were warrior generals in their own right. They lost their consummate loves, raised many children, and still kept on in the struggle for justice in search of freedom."

Shabazz used her last few minutes to urge an on-going fight for justice and to denounce a passive existence within the African-American community.

"I challenge all of you to find a way to serve humanity," proposed Shabazz. "I urge you all to consider that you didn't come to TSU just to memorize text. I urge you to prepare yourselves for the cause of empowerment."

Shabazz left the crowd with this thought, "May we sit because we are tired? Have we raised enough money? Have we informed enough kids of our rich history? When you look around, I ask you, what do you see?"

Events Calendar

Tomorrow

Joe Dudley
T.E. Poag Aud.
1p.m.

Motivational Seminar
FPCC Rm 210
5 p.m.

Feb. 8
Black History Quiz Bowl
FPCC Rm 210
6 p.m.

African-American History
Conf.
FPCC Rm 210
8a.m. - 4p.m.

Feb. 9
Basketball
TSU @ UT-Martin
5 p.m.

Feb 11
Basketball
Tenn. Tech @ TSU

Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and will continue to bring readers accurate information.

Campus News

Summer shooting victim remembered

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

A commemorative service for Isaac J. Hutcherson, a TSU student who tragically lost his life last summer before graduation, was held in the Floyd Payne Campus Center forum on Feb. 1.

Hutcherson died from a gunshot wound to the head and leg, according to the Metro-Nashville Press Release.

Nearly 70 TSU faculty, staff and students commenced in the forum to show respect for the loss of Hutcherson and to bring closure to a difficult time in his family's life.

Inman Otey, director of the TSU Career Center, invoked the memorial service. Many teachers and acquaintances began by remembering good and determined features about Hutcherson.

"Isaac was unique," said Patrice Gordon, a technician in the language, literature and philosophy department. "He had a sense of vision, always on the go,



PHOTO BY MADELYN RAGLAND

Gloria Hutcherson

and with things on his mind, he had a sense of style. He also had a sense of personality and generality."

One of Hutcherson's professors, Samantha Morgan-Curtis, read one of his last papers he had written in her class, which was an A paper, and his favorite poem by Benjamin Johnson. She also wrote a letter to a law school for

him.

Many poems and songs were sung reflecting on Hutcherson's life. William Hardy, an assistant professor in the language, literature and philosophy department, reflected on Hutcherson by saying he caught the vision of being in law school. He went on to say that his hope, faith and courage kept his eyes on that goal, no matter what.

Jewel Parham, a professor in the language, literature and philosophy department, wrote a poem about Hutcherson, which was printed in the memorial pamphlet. She said that he was a serious student, thoughtful, full of promise and it was not uncommon for him to bring someone a bouquet of flowers.

"Isaac worked his way into our lives from secretary to teachers," said Parham. "Isaac had a smile that could light up a room."

In addition, Parham said Hutcherson dropped out of high school at 16. He got

his GED and started college in 2000. Hutcherson grew up in the Edgehill community of Nashville, which, to him, was a self-destructive place. He decided to change his life when his best friend died.

"Isaac wanted to be somebody and he was," said Gloria Hutcherson, his mother.

She reflected on a memory that he had cried because he didn't have enough money to buy his books for college, but his sister made a way to get his books out of no way.

"Isaac wanted to be somebody and he was."

-Glori Hutcherson

New policy to make graduations more safer

Continued from page 1

For one student, the last minute changes came as an inconvenient surprise.

"Before leaving for the [winter] break, I went to see my advisor to ensure that everything was in order for me to graduate," said Kenetha Washington, a senior from San Francisco, Calif. "The fact that my advisor did not know anything about this change in commencement disturbs me and makes me look like a fool to my family."

Washington said her family, natives of California, purchased 10 non-refundable airplane tickets to attend the May 2006 spring commencement ceremony.

But Cade said past commencement ceremonies' crowds have resulted in possible safety violations.

"The purpose of this new policy is to address issues concerning capacity and fire code violations," Cade said. "In past ceremonies we have exceeded the 10,000 maximum capacity of the Gentry Center and have been threatened by authorities

to shut the commencement down."

The Gentry Center has a limited capacity of 10,500, according to TSU athletics documentation. However, during commencement ceremonies, seating is not allowed behind the stage which blocks off the Gentry Center on two levels.

Following Cade's presentation to the class on what the graduation changes would be, he opened the floor for questions.

Many students like Aaron Morris, a senior Agri-Business major from Chicago, questioned why TSU President Melvin N. Johnson was not there to

defend this policy. Other students also issued their concern for the lack of Johnson's presence at the meeting, who was said to be in another critical meeting.

But Johnson, when interviewed by *The Meter*, said that student input on the decision was involved from the beginning.

"We had students on the commencement committee all the while," Johnson said.

He also said that the decision to move to one commencement will eventually be implemented.

But some students feel that two ceremonies would be the best thing for the

graduates' family.

"On that day it's not really even about the students," said LaPiere Carby, a senior business administration major from Milwaukee, Wisc. of her past experiences at TSU's commencement ceremonies. "It's about the family, friends, and extended family who have sacrificed so much for the graduates to get to this point. It is their day to celebrate."



PHOTO BY D'ANDRA ISABEL

Students sign a petition to overturn graduation policy.

"In past ceremonies we have exceeded the 10,000 maximum capacity of the Gentry Center and have been threatened by authorities to shut the commencement down."

-John Cade

Forum

What We Think

Johnson to take an unbeaten path

First-year president Melvin N. Johnson has a plan for success in hand and it involves exactly what his duties were at his previous employer Winston-Salem State University.

The plan includes some top administrative changes and the creation of a new provost office.

With the creation of the new office of provost/executive vice president at TSU, the responsibilities that have traditionally been handled by several administrators will now mostly be the responsibility of a single individual. The provost will serve as a go-between for the president and other upper-level administrators and will, according to President Johnson, "help with the day to day affairs of the university." While other Tennessee Board of Regent institutions and other colleges across the nation already have this position, this will be the first time in TSU history that such an office has been created. And wisely the university has plans to begin a nationwide search to fill the position and we hope that a qualified and skilled selection is made.

We feel that the selection process will be a success if a few procedures are followed. First off, the selection process must be open and transparent. This was an issue that was raised during last year's presidential search and we hope the administration took note and realizes that both the students and the com-

munity's eyes are upon them. While it will ultimately be up to President Johnson to select a candidate who is qualified and whom he will work well with, it is also important that the student body is aware of who the candidate is, what he brings to the table, and why our president has selected him.

President Johnson stated in his 10/90 plan that one of his priorities was to assemble a senior leadership team and the formation of the provost office is essential to that process. While the establishment of this office will not absolve the president of his administrative duties, the position does give Johnson the flexibility to go about the business of "friend-raising," which is an essential part of further establishing TSU as a top institution of higher learning.

We are sure that there will be some lateral movement of administrators, but hopefully not too many, because too often the university has made such moves when it comes to filling open positions. While these promotions are good at times, we do not want the selection of new vice presidents to boil down to nepotistic selections. These new offices will serve as the key academic administrators between several departments and, therefore, the utmost care must be used in the selection process.

Due to the fact that the provost

position is one of great responsibility, there are certain things that we should expect from the person who it is awarded. Administrators, both present and future, should have a concrete plan on improving issues related to academia at the university, namely accreditation for every major. While we realize this can not be done tomorrow, there should be an effort made to not only be certified on a university-wide basis, but also on a departmental level. This is a realistic and attainable goal and it is one that the university should strive to meet.

The new provost and other new administrators should also have the ability to be flexible in times of transition, which we now find ourselves in. There will be some setbacks no doubt and, hopefully, only minor conflicts, if any, between new administrators, position shifts, and the formation of new offices. But seeing as how these individuals are to be entrusted with the legacy of TSU, they must be able to thrive under such circumstances and own up to the responsibility as academic administrators. So therefore, TSU must not be afraid of change, but rather embrace it as we move boldly toward the future. •

Got feedback? *The Meter* welcomes letters to editor at themeter@hotmail.com or tsumeter.com. See submission requirements on right.

The Meter Mission Statement

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's multi-cultural student body.

Submission Requirements

The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Opinions contained in submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of TSU faculty, students, SGA, or administration. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- a) All contributions must be typed, double-spaced (submitted on 3.5" disks or e-mailed) by Monday, and must include the writers name and title or classification.
- b) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.
- c) *The Meter* reserves the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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The Meter capitalizes the letter "B" in the word "Black" when it refers to people of African descent in accordance with the Oxford American and other dictionaries.

Forum

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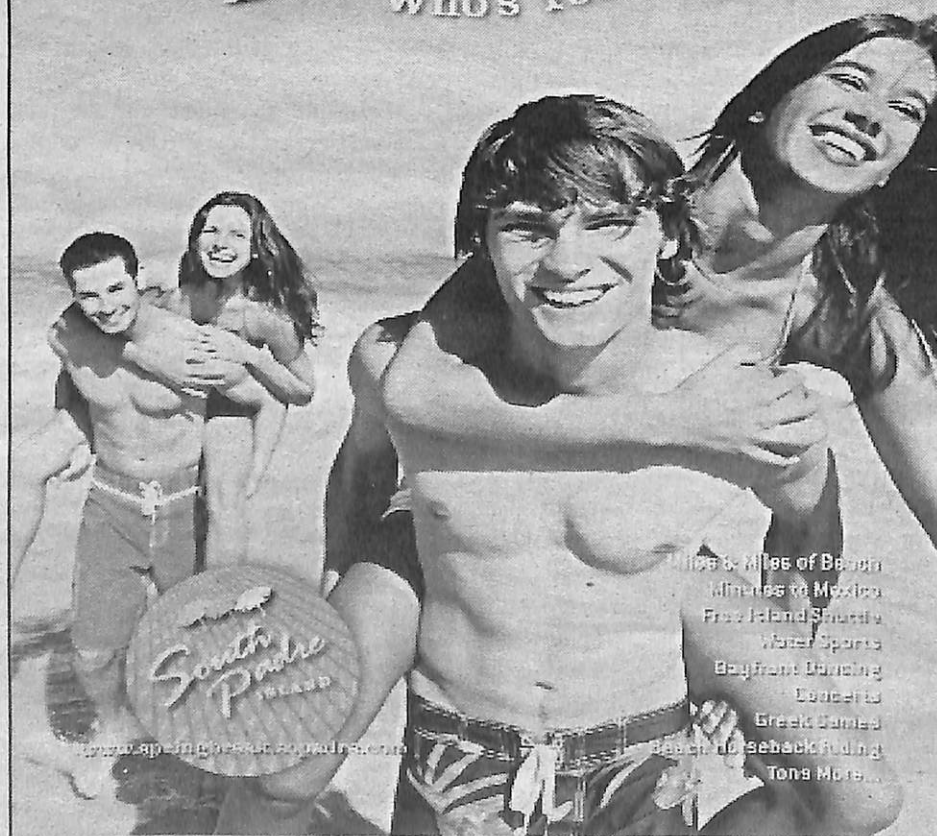
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Monique Mullings
Third-Year Student

Spring Break '06

Who's Your Padre?



100 Miles of Beach
Minutes to Mexico
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Greek Games
Beach Horseback Riding
Tons More...

By Matthew L. Evans SGA Spokesperson

Students, we hope this week's edition of *The SGA Corner* finds you in good spirits. In our effort to communicate more effectively, this week the Student Government Association has several announcements to make regarding information that may be helpful to the student body.

The SGA will be hosting an Organizational Fair this evening at 7pm in Kean Hall. The purpose of this fair will be to introduce students to many different organizations on campus.

Everything from major clubs to community service organizations will be represented at the fair. This evening, students are encouraged to attend so that we all can work together to make Tennessee State University's campus and student body as productive as possible.

The Student Government Association Vice President, Brenda C. Carter II will be hosting General Assembly twice a month in the Forum of the Student Center. The next planned General Assembly is scheduled for February 20, 2006 at 7 p.m. The first meeting was held on January 30, 2006 and it was quite a success. General Assembly gives organizations on campus an opportunity to express their sentiment in regards to the progress of the Student Government Association and its officers. It is also an area for organizations to solicit funds from the General Assembly account. We look forward to seeing each and every campus organization representation in attendance.

Several major events coming up in the near future, are the first ever Student

Leadership Week, which is scheduled for the week of February 26th – March 2nd and the annual Relay for Life which will be held April 8, 2006. The Leadership Week will provide to students an opportunity to become more acclimated to the dealings of the Student Government Association. Relay for Life is an opportunity for student groups and organization to help raise money to fight the battle against cancer. We ask that you begin planning for this event by creating teams if you haven't already. If you any questions feel free to contact Brenda C. Carter II,

SGA Vice President. Moving on to more important matters, in the best interest of student safety and campus security the SGA will be holding a Security Forum on February 7, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Forum of the Student Center on the main campus. Students should plan to attend in order to voice any opinions or concerns that they may have.

As the Student Government Association, we have an obligation to be keep students informed about our interaction with the school's administration. With that being stated, in our attempt to address the unfortunate circumstances regarding May graduation, we are happy to announce that the problem has been rectified. We pledge to continue to keep the student body abreast of any further developments, concerning future graduations or any other inconveniences that may arise, as we are working in the best interests of the students of TSU. Remember students to continue your academic pursuit of excellence and look for us again in next week's issue. ~ matthewle-vans@msn.com

**SGA
Corner**

Be sure to use your computer to
be the first to read TSU news
before it goes to print on
tsumeter.com

Campus News

TSU weight trainer looks for the gospel

By Keith Richardson
Campus News Writer

One of TSU's Wellness Center fitness trainers, Felix Mitchell, passionately helps others seek God.

A recreational therapist and second-degree black belt martial arts specialist is in training to minister to the people at his church, TSU students, and incarcerated men at the Deberry Special Need prison.

Mitchell said that God called him into the ministry world, but he credits the vision of pastor Demetrius McCullon for helping him make his vision a reality.

"I never in my wildest dream ever planned to minister to people; my first career choice was to become a police officer," said Mitchell, a recreational therapist. "I clearly never felt that I had the power to influence people because we have so many ministers and I asked myself, why me?"

Mitchell said he is taking a New Testament studies class here at TSU under the direction of Drum Wright, and also a class by his pastor H. Bruce Maxwell at Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church at 5891 Nolensville Road.

"Mitchell has been a member of LPMBC for over 10 years and has worked in many areas of ministry of our church," said Maxwell, pastor of Lake Providence. "I can see God's hand upon his life and his commitment to preach his word just by being in his presence."

And his co-workers agree.

"He has always been a great communicator which will help him relate to the students," said Felicia Sweatt, coordinator of the Wellness Center. "Students are comfortable talking to him about weight training to nutrition to general things in life."

But Mitchell is humble and warns that being a pastor is hard work and explains that pastors are not faultless and they make mistakes.

"Even ministers fall weak and nobody is perfect and people need to understand that we are all human," Mitchell said.

In 1994, Mitchell was involved in the kung-fu martial arts Olympics, which is better known as the Wushu. This was a competition of 53 countries that came together for ultimate fighting. However, Mitchell left the competitive field of kung-fu kickboxing, after he was injured.

After the Olympics, Mitchell decided to become a recreational therapist at TSU.

But presently, he teaches a cardio kickboxing class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the Wellness Center.

"Even ministers fall weak and nobody is perfect and people need to understand that we are all human."

-Felix Mitchell

Summer program gives people the power to speak

By Cara Anthony
Campus News Writer

This June, the TSU Speech Clinic plans to offer more opportunities and new services. FOR WHAT? TO WHOM?

For over 75 years, the speech clinic has served the greater Nashville area, by providing speech therapy programs for all ages starting as early as age 2.

Brenda McClellan, director of the speech summer camp, said screenings and diagnostic testing are offered to determine areas of need and that help is

available in areas such as stuttering, articulation, accent modification, autism, stroke, and voice therapy.

"Being able to continue to provide (the) summer program free of charge is important," McClellan said. "The camps are for the community."

In 2004, the speech clinic began a free summer camp for children ages 6-12. Though in past years the camp has had a low participant turnout, this year McClellan said she is looking to increase the number of participants.

She said, welcoming all kids with special needs, the camp is willing to aid

children in improving their speech skills. The summer camp creates a fun and educational atmosphere, according to McClellan. The activities provide children with not only speech skills, but life-long lessons and campers walk away with a boost of confidence that brings forth a sense of pride.

"Good communication skills allow children to compete against their competition," said Harold R. Mitchell, head of the speech pathology and audiology department. "This is a valuable service to the community."

Often speech impediments in children go undetected as past attendees have found the program to be very beneficial, according to McClellan. By refining verbal skills and improving articulation, she said a child is introduced to the refined art of clear communication.

Mitchell said he believes making advancements in speech communication enhances all areas of learning. Attending the speech clinic's summer camp may

give a child the extra help needed to succeed in an educational setting.

TSU students, along with the community, are encouraged to bring children to participate in this year's summer program. With three different focus areas—articulation, language and stuttering—children will be able to attend the camp that caters to their needs.

When a child has completed the camp, if additional help is needed the services are available Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. during the academic school year.

"Good communication skills allow children to compete against their competition."

-Harold R. Mitchell

For more information:
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Campus News

Retirees to leave administrative posts open

Continued from page 1

of university relations and development.

Additionally, Johnson said with the retiring Vice President of Academic Affairs Augustus Bankhead and Interim Vice President of University Relations and Development Homer Wheaton, that search committees would be formed soon.

"We are forming the search committees now and there will be student representation on these committees," Johnson said. Also he acknowledged that Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Dorothy Lockridge would be moving back to her position of associate vice president of student affairs and chief judicial officer.

Price said the position changes are expected to be announced in a letter from Johnson to the TSU family early this week.

The changes are expected to help Johnson accomplish one of his main goals for the next six months, which is having his organization team leaders in place or on their way to TSU by the end of the fiscal year.

Johnson also said that TSU has restructured its hiring process with the implementation of the PeopleAdmin software program which allows individuals to apply for positions at TSU online.

"[PeopleAdmin] will help to streamline human resources," Johnson said. "This program will make employment more flexible and efficient."

First six months go well, looking to the future

In his first six months, Johnson said he is pleased with his "friend-raising" campaign and that he has been well-received by the community.

Johnson said he has built a good rapport with students and has been visiting several TSU alumni chapters around the country, with more scheduled. Additionally, he said he feels he has "established a niche in athletic changes," in reference to the recent football coordinator hires and 20 high school athletes signed to play football at TSU on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Looking to the future, Johnson said he feels that TSU has a "competitive edge."

TSU provides an affordable education to students, as well as contributes nearly \$500 million annually to the Nashville economy, according to Johnson.

He said the future focus at TSU is a focus on excellence in academic programs, student support services, administrative oversight, and leadership and service.

Reasons for this focus is to position TSU to meet the needs of the region, enhance the regional image and reputation, strategically focus on broadening graduate education and enhance competitiveness of academic programs.

In the next six months, Johnson is also planning inauguration for Homecoming, establishing a good niche in athletics, and the engagement of alumni and community groups.

Developing relationships with alumni, corporations

Continuing with his theme of TSU having a "competitive edge," Johnson mentioned developing relationships with several distinguished TSU alums and corporations.

Alumna Xernona Clayton-Brady, who established the Trumpet Awards to recognize Black achievements in arts, politics and science, and alumnus Bobby Jones, who has made gospel programming a staple on Black Entertainment Television, are two of several with whom Johnson has worked.

Also, Johnson has developed strong ties with the Nashville business community.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, Johnson and 39 other "high-powered CEOs" met, as the 2006 class of Leadership Nashville, in the TSU Performing Arts Center. He said several of the city's top CEOs had never visited TSU, but following the visit mentioned plans to begin recruiting TSU students.

"Their eyes are closed and they like to stick to the familiar," Johnson said. "We have to open their eyes."

Changes to meet needs of students

Continued from page 1

access to higher education. This stemmed from a 1968 lawsuit filed by Rita Sanders, now Rita Sanders-Geier, that said the state maintained a segregated system for higher education past the 1956 legal ending of segregation.

Nettles went on to say that the funds will upgrade the AWC facilities while increasing enrollment.

Due to construction, day classes have been pushed back to start in January 2007, but this may be pushed back for students if construction dates change, according to Nettles. However, George Herring, the construction manager who graduated from TSU in 1985, believes in keeping on schedule, Nettles said.

"This renovation has given us an opportunity to update and meet the needs of students and faculty," Nettles said. "It's our goal to make each classroom technologically capable."

A new mock training room will be available for faculty, students and outside organizations for workshops, according to Nettles. Also, the room, which will be located in the old distance education area, currently has a Wall Street stock ticker taper. This training center can be used by faculty, staff and students, and outside organizations for training workshops said Nettles.

"I think this renovation is wonderful," said Cheryl Seay, the director of the extended service and continuing education program. "This is a well-constructed building, but it just needs some TLC [tender, love and care]."

Conveniently, the AWC's Bursar office will be on the third floor beside security. In addition, security will be

located on the second floor after the upgraded conversion, according to Nettles.

Some of the departmental upgrades will add a restroom to the early learning center, and move the speech and pathology department to the second floor. Another feature will include a larger cafeteria; a newly remodeled library, which is expected to open in April; and upgrades to the main entrance on the second floor Nettles said.

"We think that before it's done we will put out more than 23 million additional dollars," TSU President Melvin N. Johnson said, as he expressed pleasure for recruiting for non-traditional students.

There will be a "laptop lane," which will enable students to use their wireless laptops in the extended cafeteria area. Visitors are expected to be greeted by Della Henry, one of the administrators, to maintain a welcoming atmosphere said Nettles.

"The building and the furniture is in great shape; it just needs a face lift," said Nettles. "Additionally, we are able to get a sense of what it is going to be like when everything is finished."

The programs offered at the AWC are not limited to those of the business department. In addition, this campus is expected to offer a new master's degree in public health, an associate degree in health, a bachelor's of science, a bachelor's of urban studies. According to Nettles, a masters and a doctoral program will be offered in public health. Furthermore, the basic needs of the general education core classes can also be met on the AWC.

"We welcome everybody," said Nettles. "All students are welcomed."•



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Cheryl Seay, director of the extended service and continuing education programs, shows blueprints of the AWC campus' future cafeteria.

Advertisement

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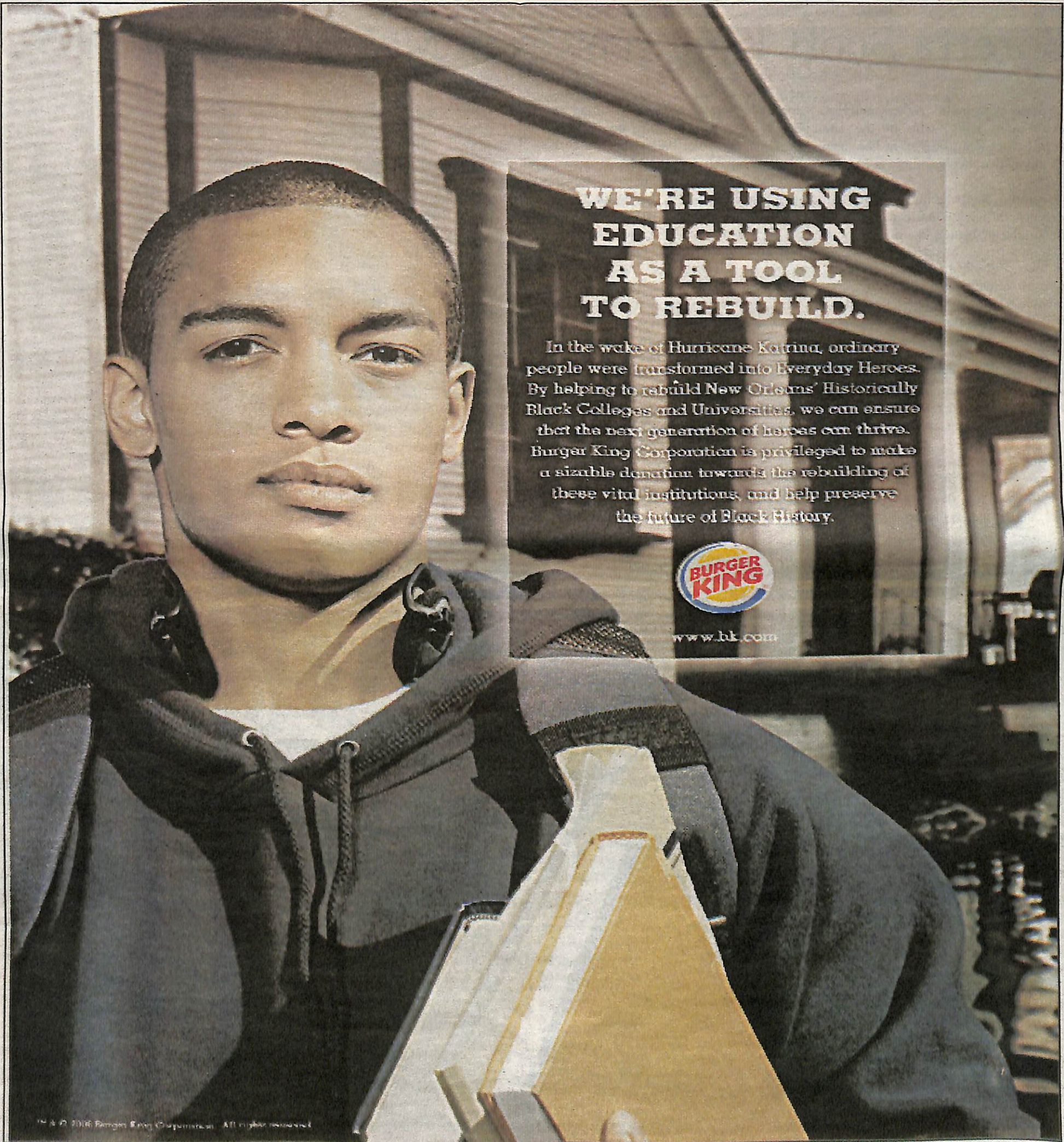
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Campus News

Coretta Scott King passes in Mexico

Lifelong human rights activist, Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Martin Luther King Jr., died in her sleep in an alternative medical clinic in Mexico on Jan. 31.

Coretta Scott King is one of America's influential African-American women who dedicated her life to social justice and peace. She played a leading role along with her husband in the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. King has traveled throughout the nation speaking out on behalf of many issues that include racial and economic justice, women and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, and educational opportunities. She has also served as a consultant for many world leaders as well as Nelson Mandela.

Mrs. King has received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities. She has authored three books, and a nationally-syndicated col-

umn. She served on, and helped found, dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Coalition for Voter Participation and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

She spent most of her time raising their four children, Yolanda Denise (1955), Martin Luther, III (1957), Dexter Scott (1961), and Bernice Albertine (1963). In 1968, she devoted most of her energy developing programs and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Mrs. King was born and raised in Marion, Ala. She graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received her B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin.

While in Boston, she met Martin Luther King, Jr. They were married on



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Coretta Scott King

June 18, 1953. A year later, the two resided in Montgomery, Ala., where he ministered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Madelyn Ragland•

Timeline

April 27, 1927 — Coretta Scott is born in Perry County, Ala.

1947 — Begins attending Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She would earn a bachelor's in music and education and later study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music.

April 4, 1968 — King is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

June 26, 1968 — Coretta King founds the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Atlanta.

April 4, 1968 — King is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

Aug. 16, 2005 — Suffers a stroke.

Jan 16, 2006 — Watches the King Day ceremonies on television, the 20th anniversary of the federal holiday.

Jan. 31, 2006 — The family announces she died overnight.

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THE METER



Arts & Entertainment

Monday
February 6, 2006

Volume 56
Issue 17

Student one step closer to industry success

By Janay Eichelberger
Contributing Writer

TSU junior Antonio "AJ" Benton is grooming himself for the path to success by recently joining SoSoDef Recordings as the campus college representative for one of hip-hop's finest labels.

Benton, who also serves as station manager at WTST, TSU campus radio, believes that his position at the campus station has helped him prepare for a career in the music industry.

At WTST, Benton supervises all aspects of radio- news, promotions, programming, and production. Each department has a director which carries out these duties and Benton's job is to make sure that the station runs efficiently.

"Basically, this is a big step for me," said Benton. "This opportunity will help



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Antonio "AJ" Benton just recently joined SoSo Def Recordings as the campus college representative.

in grooming me for the future. I'm proud to be linked with SoSoDef because it is

one of the best (labels). Look at what J.D.(Jermaine Dupri) stands for and how he takes care of his people. This man is about longevity. If I can learn anything from this experience, it will be a blessing."

Jermaine Dupri, founder/president/CEO of SoSoDef Records, has launched the careers of top-caliber artists and radio-friendly hip-hop artists such as Dem Franchise Boyz, Bow Wow, Jagged Edge and Da Brat, just to name a few.

Essentially, Benton's new position will require him to organize quality events with such artists. If an artist from the label is in the Nashville area, Benton will use his TSU street team to promote a particular event, in turn, promoting the artist.

"The whole purpose (of this position) is to build a SoSoDef on campus," said Benton, a mass communication

major from Atlanta. "It will be a team that consists of 10 to 15 people, which will have every aspect that SoSoDef has."

Benton credits his perseverance in obtaining this internship because he said "It wasn't easy." Benton phoned Dorma Davis, coordinator of internships at SoSoDef Records, every other day over the winter holiday acquiring about job opportunities.

Upon his constant request for her to review his resume, and telling Davis about his involvement in radio broadcasting, Davis finally signed him.

"She (Davis) just took me in," states Benton. "She's all about the cause, seeing my dream and helping me realize that."

Now, Davis will inform Benton of upcoming events involving SoSoDef

See "Student" on page 12



Compact DISCUSSION Ratings

- 5/5: Instant classic
- 4/5: Ground-Breaking
- 3/5: OK Album, worth a listen
- 2/5: Buy the bootlegged copy
- 1/5: Don't waste the money

Anthony Hamilton— *Ain't Nobody Worryin'*—4/5

Southern soul man, Anthony Hamilton reaches into his hat to pull out another surprise for listeners hungry for

raw emotion and harmonious melodies. The album entitled, *Ain't Nobody Worryin'*, marks his third mainstream solo release in as many years.

Stocked with the same emotional power that earned his debut album, *Comin' From Where I'm From*, critical acclaim and commercial success, his latest release plays the same cards with a couple extra bonuses that up this LP's ante.

Production is a plus through out the album. All of the instrumentation is treated with such care it appears to almost upstage the artist. Take note of the word *almost* because Hamilton's lyrical prowess and lived-in vocal styling can never be completely over shadowed. The rich instrumentation frequently inspires thoughts of Curtis Mayfield and Isaac Hayes while the subject matter and in-your-face honesty are clear reminders of how timely the album really is.

From beginning to end the album is real and honest with no fillers and this is made most clear by the lead single, *Can't Let Go*. Hamilton earnestly laments on his undying loyalty to the love of his life

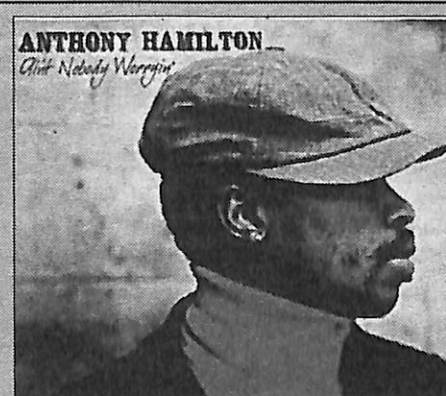


PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC.YAHOO.COM

Anthony Hamilton

while the music supports his every move acting as more of an extension of his voice instead of background for the lyrics.

His flare for clever song writing appear throughout the album shining on tracks like *Southern Stuff* where Hamilton speaks on gifts only a southern woman could possess and *The Truth* where he gives his woman his heart.

For this album, Hamilton makes an appreciated left turn into uncharted terri-

tory. The turn gives him an opportunity to step away from his de facto trademark 60's soul sound and try a little something different. This is clearly visible and a refreshing on the Caribbean inspired *Everybody* and funky upbeat jam, *Sista Big Bones*.

Hamilton even wows listeners with a successful ballad, *Change Your World*, which focuses on love without the heart-break.

The album's only drawback is the fact that the left turns don't happen enough. The album already comes in at a slim dozen tracks and more than half of those stick to the slow, yearning fare that gained Hamilton his first slice of celebrity. Taking more intelligent risks could have prevented the album from sounding so repetitive.

Bottom Line: Hamilton's roughly textured tenor fully embodies the lived-in soul of his earthy lyrics. The album has no moments where the words are less than heartfelt magic even if every moment isn't quite inspirational.

Gregory Brand Jr.

Arts & Entertainment

Foxx builds on recent success with NBC

By Kirsten D. Watkins and
Gregory Brand Jr.
A&E Editor and
Senior Editor

Academy award winning actor/singer/comedian Jamie Foxx has garnered critical acclaim, as well as an unprecedented amount of commercial success, with the release of his newest LP *Unpredictable*.

The success of the album also proved to be an advancement tool for Foxx, as he was offered his own television music special on the NBC network.

KDW: I was so very proud when I found out that NBC planned on giving Jamie Foxx his due credit. He has come a long way from Wanda on *In Living Color*.

GB: I have to say I was a little surprised. This is his first mainstream release besides that no-go a decade ago. On NBC on top of that, they aren't known for giving Black entertainment the time of day.

KDW: And that's the beauty of it all. Jamie Foxx came out of the box, post-Oscar, and gave it all. He dispelled all of the myths about a young Black man in Hollywood. What I was displeased with was the accusation that NBC would not promote the musical event in the same capacity of the other programs because Foxx didn't want to play by the rules. In saying that, I mean not inviting the White guests that NBC

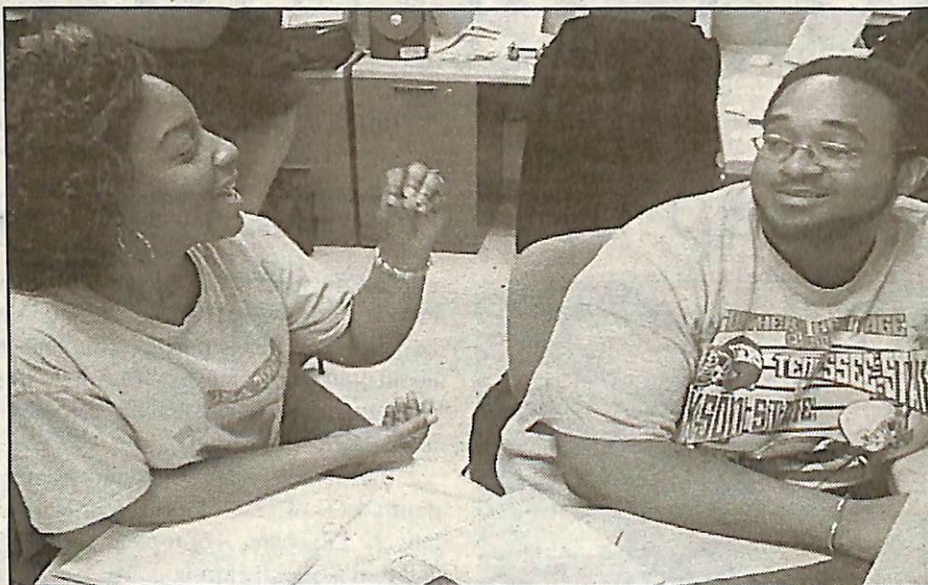


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

A&E editor Kirsten D. Watkins and Senior Editor Gregory Brand, Jr. converse on the controversy surrounding Jamie Foxx's NBC special.

suggested and instead "sticking to his guns" so to speak. It was beautiful to see Snoop Dogg, The Game, and Mary J. Blige on one of the Big Four networks. NBC is triflin' for giving him that proposition. The only thing that they did was jeopardize their own ratings because it could have done a lot better if the publicity was right.

GB: You're acting as if NBC has a history of employing the talents of Blacks in lead roles on their network. When was the last time you saw a sitcom or dramedy driven by a Black cast on the network, let alone a music special? You probably can't name any in the past few years.

KDW: How unfortunate was it that I had to find out about this momentous moment in television via e-mail in the form of a protest? At this point, I sent it to a friend on thefacebook.com, where it seems everyone had the same response as me. No one knew! Last semester, I wrote a commentary about more Black faces on major networks, and I was beginning to think that we were making progress. But, anyhow, Jamie did an excellent job. The storyline was creative, as he teleported back to his youth and shared memories with his grandmother. Foxx kept the audience's interest with his seasoned tenor and dazzling stage presence. I cannot stress how pleased I was with Jamie and how pissed I am at NBC.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLYWOODREPORTER.COM

Jamie Foxx preforms during his NBS special

Students to help record label promote

Continued from page 11

Records and their artists, and Benton will implement them around campus.

"Benton was the first student from TSU to contact us about being a college rep," said Davis. "A college rep is another marketing vein that allows our label to promote our artists on campuses."

And with Benton working for SoSoDef Records, here lies another possible opportunity for publicity at TSU. He is currently trying to set up a spring concert, where artists will provide entertainment, have a question and answer session with students, and be able to sign autographs.

According to Benton, all of his recent success can be attributed to his hard work and determination.

"Keeping a positive attitude is something I would advise to others trying to make it in this business," said Benton. "It's hard, especially for a person my age, but it is important to always stay professional, be consistent, and network is the key."

GB: I thought the show was well put together, too. I also found out it was coming on television through the Internet. I almost thought the show itself was a rumor until I started seeing the post everywhere. Though I was initially upset by the fact that they would not advertise the event for any reason, let alone a racial one, I was really not surprised when I saw what network was running the show... against *American Idol* of all programs.

KDW: Well, Jamie prevails in the face of NBC with his freshly-announced platinum album *Unpredictable*, a thriving film career, having starred in two comedy television shows in syndication (one which bears his name), and a stellar fan base that breathes with nothing but loyal support for the funny guy from Terrell, Texas.

GB: I'm happy for him as well. It's good to see the show went on in spite of fierce adversity but I'm still a little unsettled by the fact that this little discrepancy appeared on Jamie's special instead of say... Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey. I would say it was 'racial, man racial' like Martin Lawrence's character in *Boomerang* but that would be redundant considering even Stevie Wonder would see that something just ain't right.

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Tigers sign 13 linemen, get transfers

By Lavonte Young
Sports Writer

First-year head football coach, James Webster, and the TSU football team will sport a slightly different look during the 2006 season.

With 20 high school seniors signed, 13 of which are offensive and defensive linemen with an average weight of 303 pounds, and two Division I-A transfers, Webster said he is very pleased with his class.

"Last season, I got tired of looking at these narrow butt guys on the line, so this year we are going to have wide butts on the line," Webster said. "This is just the beginning. We really feel that will get better as we go along."

The Tigers' 2006 transfers include quarterback Antonio Heffner from the University of South Carolina and wide receiver Mike Mason from the University of North Carolina.

"We were able to get two big steals with Heffner and Mason," Webster said.

Mason had 22 completions for 372

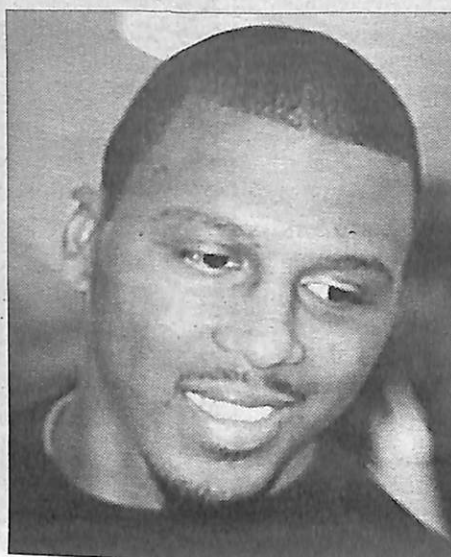


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Antonio Heffner is one of two Division I-A transfers to join TSU. yards and a touchdown and Mason returned six kickoffs for 143 yards.

Last season, Heffner completed 22 of 33 passes for 236 yards with a quarterback rating of 146.7 and rushed for 63 yard and a touchdown in 2005 the USC Gamecocks.

"TSU can expect out me as a quarterback with a winning attitude and leader at the quarterback position," said Heffner.

And Webster certainly hopes so.

"Our No. 1 priority was a quarterback," Webster said. "Not saying that we weren't good. But I don't want to go into (Vanderbilt) with all those screaming fans with someone who hasn't been there."

And with the new look, the Tigers' got two new coordinators.

TSU signed offensive coordinator Fred Kaiss from Hampton University and defensive coordinator Ron Lambert from the Eastern Illinois.

"Last season the Tigers' were ranked 114 out of 116 in offensive ranking and I believe that I can bring that ranking higher," said Kaiss following the TSU national signing day reception.

However, Lambert expects to keep the philosophy pretty much the same as last year.

"I'm not really going to change the defensive that much," Lambert said. "I'm just going to teach them discipline

and position these two things will prevent the big passing plays."

Another thing that Webster was looking to achieve was in-state recruiting.

The Tigers' were able to sign four players from Nashville, five from Memphis, one from LaVergne, Tenn. and one from Knoxville.

"That's what I wanted to achieve," Webster said. "I want to get good player from the state of Tennessee."•

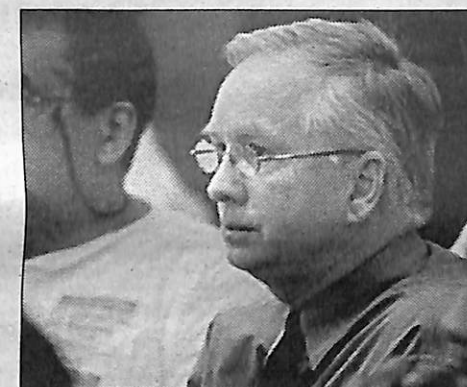


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Fred Kaiss has returned to TSU as the offensive coordinator for 2006.

Tigers sign 20 high school recruits, 11 in-state

The following is a list of TSU football signees for the freshman class of 2006. Players are listed by name, position, height, weight and hometown (high school).

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Jamel Bell, Lineman, 6-4 1/2 320, Lakeland, Fla. (Lake Gibson) | 5. Octavious Coffee, Lineman, 6-6 375, Rogersville, Ala. (Lauderdale County) | 11. Jeffrey Johnson, Lineman, 6-5 325, Montgomery, Ala. (Jefferson Davis) | 17. Troy Tangney, Lineman, 6-5, 300, Spring Hill, Tenn. (Page) |
| 2. Minor Bowens, Lineman, 6-2 300, Memphis (Ridgeway) | 6. Alex Davis, Lineman, 6-4 315, Sarasota, Fla. (Riverview) | 12. Nigel Martin, Lineman, 6-3 1/2, 220, Weston, Fla. (American Heritage) | 18. Terrence Wright, RB, 5-10, 190, Houston (Westside) |
| 3. Jarvis Canty, Lineman, 6-7 350, Great Falls, S.C. (Great Falls) | 7. Moses Echols, Lineman, 6-3 315, Savannah, Ga. (Savannah) | 13. Robert Nevels, Lineman, 6-5 310, Nashville (Pearl-Cohn) | 19. Joe Whitlow, Lineman, 6-5, 300, Nashville (Pearl-Cohn) |
| 4. Tyrone Cobb, LB, 6-1 230, Knoxville (Fulton) | 8. Kenyatta Fullilove, DB, 6-0 200, Memphis (Melrose) | 14. Dexter Patterson, DB, 6-4, 205, Memphis (Fairley) | 20. Julian Wright, Lineman, 6-5, 270, LaVergne, Tenn. (LaVergne) |
| | 9. Gershon Jordan, TE, 6-6 275, Nashville (Whites Creek) | 15. Keith Price, DB, 6-0, 180, Memphis, (Melrose) | |
| | 10. Justin Jordan, TE, 6-2 1/2 235, Kernersville, N.C. (Parkland) | 16. Robert Spivey, Lineman, 6-2 1/2, 240, Columbus, Ga. (Glenwood) | |

Division I-A Transfers:

1. Antonio Heffner, QB, 6-2, 195, Memphis (Melrose/South Carolina)
2. Mike Mason, WR, 5-11, 190, Rocky Mount, N.C. (Rocky Mount/UNC)•

Sports

Meet the person, not the athlete

Flying Tiger Evan Wimberly...

By Majornette Jefferson
Sports Writer

Since the seventh grade, Evan Wimberly has had a strong passion for running track.

And his love for the sport has continued through the years and has proven to play an important part in his college experience here at TSU.

Off to a solid start his junior-season with cross country this past fall, the Flying Tiger came in sixth place in the 8K (5 miles) run in the Oglethorpe Classic in Atlanta on Sept. 24.

Wimberly's time of 29:51 was just 1:21 short of first place.

"I use cross country as a base to help me in reaching my athletic goal of being in the top five (Ohio Valley Conference) for the mile during the regular track season," Wimberly said.

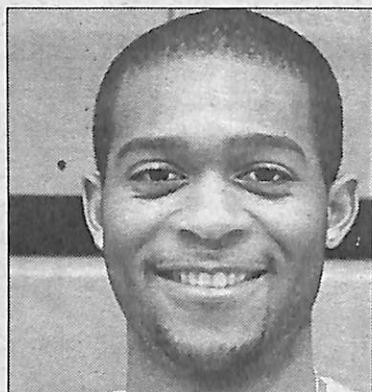


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Evan Wimberly

The Ann Arbor, Mich. native credits his love for competition as his motivation for running cross country and the architectural engineering major

hopes to one day coach track as well.

"Evan has great potential,"

said Kelly Carter, TSU's head track coach. "His improvement over the years has given him the opportunity to become one of TSU's greatest distance runners."

So how did Wimberly decide that TSU was going to be his

home for collegiate running?

He said he wanted to come to TSU, after visiting the campus on a Historically Black College and University tour when in high school. To Wimberly, TSU stood out among other schools visited because of the Division I standards and the architectural engineering program.

"My high school coach told me I was ready to compete at the collegiate level," Wimberly said. "They also had the highest graduate rate for athletes among other HBCU's."

In addition to academic and athletic duties, Wimberly enjoys spending time with his friends, playing video games, and drawing. He said the things most valuable to him are honesty, loyalty, religion, and his family. He admires the strength of his mother, who has proven to be the "strongest" woman he knows.

According to his friends, Wimberly reflects a positive attitude as well as a challenge when it comes to thinking.

"He always makes you think," said junior Flying Tiger Rickey Sales. "There is never a dull moment when he is around."•

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Sports

Softball plans to excel on the field, class

By Allyson Buckner
Sports Writer

With the softball season less than a week away, the Lady Tigers are hastily preparing for the beginning of the upcoming season.

Despite an 8-36 record last year, the Lady Tigers plan to have a breakout season. The team returns six of 10 regular starters who are expected to carry a majority of the leadership roles.

Returning player, junior pitcher and infielder, Leena Worrell, was the only member of the 2005 team to be selected to the Second team All-OVC.

And veteran Amanda Beuhler believes the team is going to be even better this season.

"I think we are going to be really good because our team has great chemistry," said Beuhler, a Twin Falls, Idaho native majoring in human performance and sports sciences.

But the veterans are not the only ones that plan on playing big this year.

Coach Joyce Maudie, in her fifth season at TSU, was able to recruit five transfers and three freshmen.

"I am very optimistic about the upcoming season," Maudie said. "This group of ladies is very versatile and athletic. As long as we remain healthy, then, the sky is the limit for our success."

One of the three freshmen is the third baseman and shortstop Melanie Cruz recruit of Nashville, said she is ready but knows that it will take some fine-tuning to compete on the college level.

"Being a freshman is a big adjustment coming from high school," Cruz said. "You have to know how to prioritize your time."

And if the team's past results are any indication, Cruz won't have much of problem finding success with prioritizing.

The TSU softball has not only prepared for success on the field, but they are also having success in the classroom as well. The team posted a team grade point average of above 3.0 in the fall

semester.

"I am proud of the work that these ladies have done in the classroom, and I would like them to do an even better job this semester," Maudie said.

The Lady Tigers will throw out the first pitch off their season at cross-town rival Belmont on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. Their first home game is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22 against the Bulldogs of Alabama A&M University. •

"I am proud of the work that these ladies have done in the classroom, and I would like them to do an even better job this semester."

-Coach Joyce Maudie

Softball Schedule 2006

Feb 14-19 Tournament at Mississippi State University
Feb 22 ALABAMA A&M (DH)
Feb 25- 26 Tournament at Georgia State
Mar 5-10 Rebel Games
Mar 16 JACKSON STATE (DH)
Mar 18 at Jacksonville State (DH)
Mar 19 at Jacksonville State
Mar 23 TENNESSEE TECH (DH)
Mar 25 SAMFORD (DH)
Mar 26 SAMFORD
Mar 29 at Middle Tennessee (DH)
Apr 1 at Tennessee-Martin (DH)
Apr 2 at Tennessee-Martin
Apr 8 at Southeast Missouri (DH)
Apr 9 at Southeast Missouri
Apr 12 LIPSCOMB (DH)
Apr 14 EASTERN ILLINOIS (DH)
Apr 15 EASTERN ILLINOIS

*Home games in ALL CAPS

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see tsutigers.com

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Sports

Tigers drop late lead in Clarksville

The TSU men's basketball team (8-12, 7-7 Ohio Valley Conference) was still able to go to the wire with an Austin Peay Governors team (13-11, 8-7 OVC) that shot 53.3 percent from the field on Saturday, Feb. 4.

The Tigers were tied 63-63 with APSU with 2:06 remaining in the second half. The Governors would go on the score the next seven points on the way to a 70-63 win.

TSU was led by senior forward Kareem Grant with 19 points. Senior guard Wayne

Arnold added 15 points and junior forward

recorded a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

APSU had four players score in double-digits. Governor guard Maurice Hampton scored 20 points on seven of 11 field goal attempts.

The next TSU game is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9 at Tennessee-Martin.

Eddie R. Cole Jr.

Tiger Briefs



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

TSU center Larry Turner dunks against Eastern Illinois on Jan. 21. Turner scored five against APSU.

Tiger Top 5

For the week of Jan. 23-29

1. Kareem Grant - Forward
Senior- Interdisciplinary Studies
Middletown, Conn.

Grant recorded a career-high 31 points against Eastern Kentucky on Thursday, Jan. 26, and tied that high on Jan. 28, with another 31 against Tennessee Tech.

2. Ronald Morris- 200 meters
Sophomore - Engineering
Madison, Tenn.

Flying Tiger Morris won the 200-meter dash with a time of 21:71 on Jan. 28 at the 2006 TSU Invitational Indoor meet.

3. Dominique Ward - 200 meters
Sophomore -Health Profession and Clinical Science
Tigerbelle Ward was the top collegiate runner in 200-meter dash with the time of 25:15 at the 2006 TSU Indoor Invitational.

4. Latheria Lewis- Shot put
Junior -Education
Jacksonville, Fla.

Lewis won the shot put competition with a throw of 45-feet, 9.75 inches on Jan. 28 at the TSU Indoor Invitational.

5. Leslie Dean- Guard/Forward
Senior - Mass Communication
Huntsville, Ala.

Dean scored a team high 24 points against Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 26 and another 20 against Tennessee Tech on Jan. 28.

Applications are now available for the Tennessee State University Student Government Association and class officer for 2006-2007

The positions for Student Government Association include:

- Miss Tennessee State University
- SGA President
- SGA Vice President
- Representatives at Large
- Representative at Large Evening

Positions for Class Offices Include:

- Class Queen
- Class Presidents
- Class Vice-Presidents
- Class Secretaries
- Class Treasurers
- Graduate Officer Representative Day and Evening

Applications are available in the Student Center at the Information Desk. For more information concerning each position or the application please contact Dean Myles @ 963-5653 or S.E.C. @ 963-5037, or refer to the student handbook the deadline is February 15, 2006.